

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

1. A method for handling an off-hook event comprising the steps of:
  - detecting an off-hook event with a modem communicatively linked to a circuit loop in which the off-hook event occurs, wherein said detection is based upon audible information conveyed by the circuit loop;
  - initiating at least one programmatic action within a computing device communicatively linked to said modem; and
  - conveying an off-hook notification as a result of said programmatic action.
2. The method of claim 1, said detecting step further comprising the step of:
  - receiving an information tone, wherein said information tone is generated by a central telephony office to indicate that an off-hook event has occurred.
3. The method of claim 1, said detecting step further comprises the steps of:
  - determining whether a dial-tone is present;
  - checking said circuit loop for said audible information; and
  - based upon said checking step and upon a previously established time-out threshold, determining that said off-hook event has occurred.
4. The method of claim 1, where said off-hook notification includes a speech message, said method further comprising the step of:
  - identifying a previously recorded speech message stored within said computing device.
5. The method of claim 1, where said off-hook notification includes a speech message, said method further comprising the steps of:
  - identifying a text based notification; and
  - text-to-speech converting said text-based notification to generate said speech message.

6. The method of claim 1, said conveying step further comprising the step of playing an audible message using at least one speaker connected to said computing device.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said initiating step further comprises the step of establishing a network connection with another computing device such that said conveying step includes sending an electronic message across said network connection.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said network connection is not part of said circuit loop.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said initiating step further comprises the step of establishing a wireless connection with a mobile device such that said off-hook notification includes an electronic message conveyed across said wireless connection.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said mobile device is a mobile telephone and said electronic message includes a speech message.
11. A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:
  - detecting an off-hook event with a modem communicatively linked to a circuit loop in which the off-hook event occurs, wherein said detection is based upon audible information conveyed by the circuit loop;
  - initiating at least one programmatic action within a computing device communicatively linked to said modem; and
  - conveying an off-hook notification as a result of said programmatic action.
12. The machine-readable storage of claim 11, said detecting step further comprising the step of:

receiving an information tone, wherein said information tone is generated by a central telephony office to indicate that an off-hook event has occurred.

13. The machine-readable storage of claim 11, said detecting step further comprises the steps of:

determining whether a dial-tone is present;

checking said circuit loop for said audible information; and

based upon said checking step and upon a previously established time-out threshold, determining that said off-hook event has occurred.

14. The machine-readable storage of claim 11, where said off-hook notification includes a speech message, said method further comprising the step of:

identifying a previously recorded speech message stored within said computing device.

15. The machine-readable storage of claim 11, where said off-hook notification includes a speech message, said method further comprising the steps of:

identifying a text based notification; and

text-to-speech converting said text-based notification to generate said speech message.

16. The machine-readable storage of claim 11, said conveying step further comprising the step of playing an audible message using at least one speaker connected to said computing device.

17. The machine-readable storage of claim 11, wherein said initiating step further comprises the step of establishing a network connection with another computing device such that said conveying step includes sending an electronic message across said network connection.

18. The machine-readable storage of claim 17, wherein said network connection is not part of said circuit loop.
19. The machine-readable storage of claim 11, wherein said initiating step further comprises the step of establishing a wireless connection with a mobile device such that said off-hook notification includes an electronic message conveyed across said wireless connection.
20. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, wherein said mobile device is a mobile telephone and said electronic message includes a speech message.
21. A system for handling an off-hook event comprising:
  - means for detecting an off-hook event with a modem communicatively linked to a circuit loop in which the off-hook event occurs, wherein said detection is based upon audible information conveyed by the circuit loop;
  - means for initiating at least one programmatic action within a computing device communicatively linked to said modem; and
  - means for conveying an off-hook notification as a result of said programmatic action.